

about it. They are saying if the pilots take those pensions, they will bankrupt the company; it will be gone. United is in the same position. All those people who were out there with Enron, Enron went down; and what did they have left? All they had left was Social Security. Nothing, if this administration had its way.

We have an administration that has to be changed. We have lost 1.4 million people's health insurance, 1.5 million people's jobs, and countless numbers of pensions. The regime change ought to come in 49 days.

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S 2004 OLYMPIANS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the participants of the 2004 Summer Olympics from California. Last month, 537 American athletes traveled to Athens to compete for what is arguably the most esteemed prize in the sporting world, an Olympic medal. Among them, were 143 athletes from my own home State of California, and I was able to witness their success.

Our California Olympians made their country proud, winning 78 medals: 31 were gold, 17 silver, and 30 bronze. As representative of the 33rd Congressional District, I would like to honor these California Olympians and their contributions to the Golden State's tradition of individual and collective human achievement.

In particular, I wish to enter into the RECORD the names of those Californians who brought home Olympic gold from Athens:

Lindsay Benko, Women's Swimming, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Laura Berg, Women's Softball; Shannon Boxx, Women's Soccer; Crystl Bustos, Women's Softball; Brandi Chastain, Women's Soccer; Natalie Coughlin, Women's Swimming, 100 Meter; Backstroke, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Matthew Deakin, Men's Rowing.

Joy Fawcett, Women's Soccer; Lisa Fernandez, Women's Softball; Jennie Finch, Women's Softball; Tairia Flowers, Women's Softball; Julie Foudy, Women's Soccer; Amanda Freed, Women's Softball; Yolanda Griffith, Women's Basketball; Joanna Hayes, Women's 100 Meter Hurdles.

Monique Henderson, Women's 4x400 Meter Relay; Lovieanne Jung, Women's Softball; Lenny Krayzelburg, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Lisa Leslie, Women's Basketball; Jason Lezak, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Misty May, Women's Beach Volleyball; Jessica Mendoza, Women's Softball.

Stacey Nuveman, Women's Softball; Leah O'Brien-Amico, Women's Softball; Kimberly Rhode, Women's Double Trap Shooting; Diana Taurasi, Women's Basketball; Jenny Topping, Women's Softball; Alyson Wagner, Women's Soccer; Kerri Walsh, Women's Volleyball; Andre Ward, Men's Light Heavyweight Boxing; Natasha Renee Watley, Women's Softball.

The talent, dedication and sportsmanship of our California Olympians serves to inspire all of us to strive for success, no matter what our

goals. I am proud to stand here to pay tribute to these California Olympic heroes, and to all of America's Olympic athletes. I thank them all for using their gifts to inspire us all to greatness.

IRAQ AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, violence is rampant both at home and abroad. At least 80 civilians died in Iraqi violence. As the Washington Post reports, "Car bombings, mortar attacks, and clashes between insurgents and the U.S.-Iraqi security forces killed at least 80 civilians across the country Sunday."

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In Baghdad, the scene of some of the most intense fighting in months: 27 people died, and 107 were wounded. The green zone no longer exists. There is no exit strategy with honor in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the American people to hear from this administration and this Congress how we are going to address the valiant work of our young men and women on the front lines every day and their safety being jeopardized and threatened or killed because we have no foreign policy plan. It is time for an after-plan for Iraq. The reason we are in this catastrophe is because we went into an ill-directed war with no plan.

Today, of course, we bring shame on the House of Representatives for not extending the assault weapons ban. The ATF said assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire and close-quarter shooting, not for Olympics or the duck line.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize the assault weapons ban to stem the violence at home and the violence abroad.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed with my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN EXPIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at the decision of the President and the leadership of this House to allow the assault weapons ban to expire. This law has been a critical part of our Nation's successful effort to dramatically bring down the violent crime rate. Since the ban went into effect in 1994, annual firearm deaths have decreased by 25 percent.

According to a study published by the Brady Center, the number of cases in which the ATF traced an assault weapon to a crime has dropped by 66 percent since the enactment of the ban. And the ATF has data showing, the longer the ban is in effect, the fewer assault weapons have been available for use by a criminal. The effect is to dry up the source.

This ban has broad public support. Most importantly, key law enforcement officers and agencies support it. They know these weapons have no place in our communities. The ATF description of these weapons in their "Assault Weapons Profile" clearly shows us why. It says, "Assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire, close-quarter shooting at human beings. That is why they were put together the way they were. You will not find these guns in a duck blind or at the Olympics. They are mass-produced mayhem."

The Department of Treasury has reported these weapons are not suitable for sport and are more attractive to criminals. The ATF goes on to say that, "Access to them shifts the balance of power to the lawless." In essence, these are not weapons to be used by sportsmen or kept at home. They are weapons designed to kill people, lots of them.

Assault weapons have been at the center of many of the worst mass murders in the United States. In 1984, 21 people were killed and 19 people injured by a man with an Uzi in a McDonald's in California.

In January of 1989, another man used a semiautomatic version of an AK-47 to kill five children at an elementary school, and 29 other children and their teacher were wounded in the same incident. This man fired 106 rounds in 2 minutes.

In 1993, Mir Aimal Kasi killed two CIA employees and wounded three others outside Langley using a Chinese-made semiautomatic AK-47 he bought in a gun store in Virginia.

And in July of 1993, eight people were killed and six people were wounded in a San Francisco law office. The man responsible used two TEC-DC9 assault pistols with 50-round magazines.

These weapons are a serious threat to the men and women who serve our